

songs and arias

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gitchee gumee

haiku-nyc

hopper haiku

metamorphosis

riverview amusement park

sandy songs

stars

sunday, early evening

the view from the lunch counter

washington square park

# gitchee gumee

song for baritone and harp

song cycle in three movements for baritone and piano

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COMPOSER Jonathan David

LYRICIST Daniel Neer

Commissioned by Daniel Neer and NeerSighted Productions

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I grew up in Northeast Ohio when the Edmund Fitzgerald sank on November 10, 1975 into the stormy depths of Lake Superior. The event captivated my eight year-old mind, as details of the tragedy seemed to be swept up in a shroud of mysteriously unanswered questions – many of which remain to this day. Several crew members were from such Ohio towns as Fremont, Fostoria and Port Clinton – just a stones throw from my home in neighboring Bellevue. As I became an adult, the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald continued to haunt me. For a time I was a church soloist at Mariners' Church in downtown Detroit, whose Pastor, Reverend Richard Ingalls, was intrinsically linked to the event and the family members of the lost crew members. And, in a more bizarre turn, I once learned that my Fifth grade teacher, a wonderful woman by the name of Joyce Hayward, retired from teaching to pursue other interests and became one of the leading experts on diving to shipwrecks in the Great Lakes with many notable dives to her name, helping her to garner the nickname "Lady of the Lakes".

In 2011 I wrote the text for **Gitchee Gumee** and approached friend and collaborator Jonathan David to see if he had an interest in writing a setting for voice and harp, to be featured in a multimedia staged chamber recital called 'NARKISSOS'. This song became the inspiration for establishing the 'Gitchee Gumee' setting as a centerpiece of a trilogy of songs in a cycle, each depicting life on the Great Lakes representing three generations – Grandfather, Father and Son. This song cycle, for voice and piano, is set to make its premiere in July, 2015 at the Bar Harbor Music Festival in Bar Harbor, Maine.

The term **Gitchee Gumee** was first coined by the Ojibwe tribe, who originally coined the term gichigami "be a great sea" as their name for Lake Superior. Henry Wordsworth Longfellow adopted the name as **Gitche Gumee** in The Song of Hiawatha, and the singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot included the term in his hit song "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald", changing the spelling slightly to **Gitchee Gumee**.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

*song cycle for baritone and piano:*

**July 8, 2015** **WORLD PREMIERE**

Bar Harbor Music Festival | Bar Harbor, Maine

Daniel Neer (baritone), Marijo Newman (piano)

*song for baritone and harp:*

**May 11, 2012**

The Secret Theater, Queens NYC | The NARKISSOS Project

Daniel Neer (baritone), Alyssa Reit (harp)

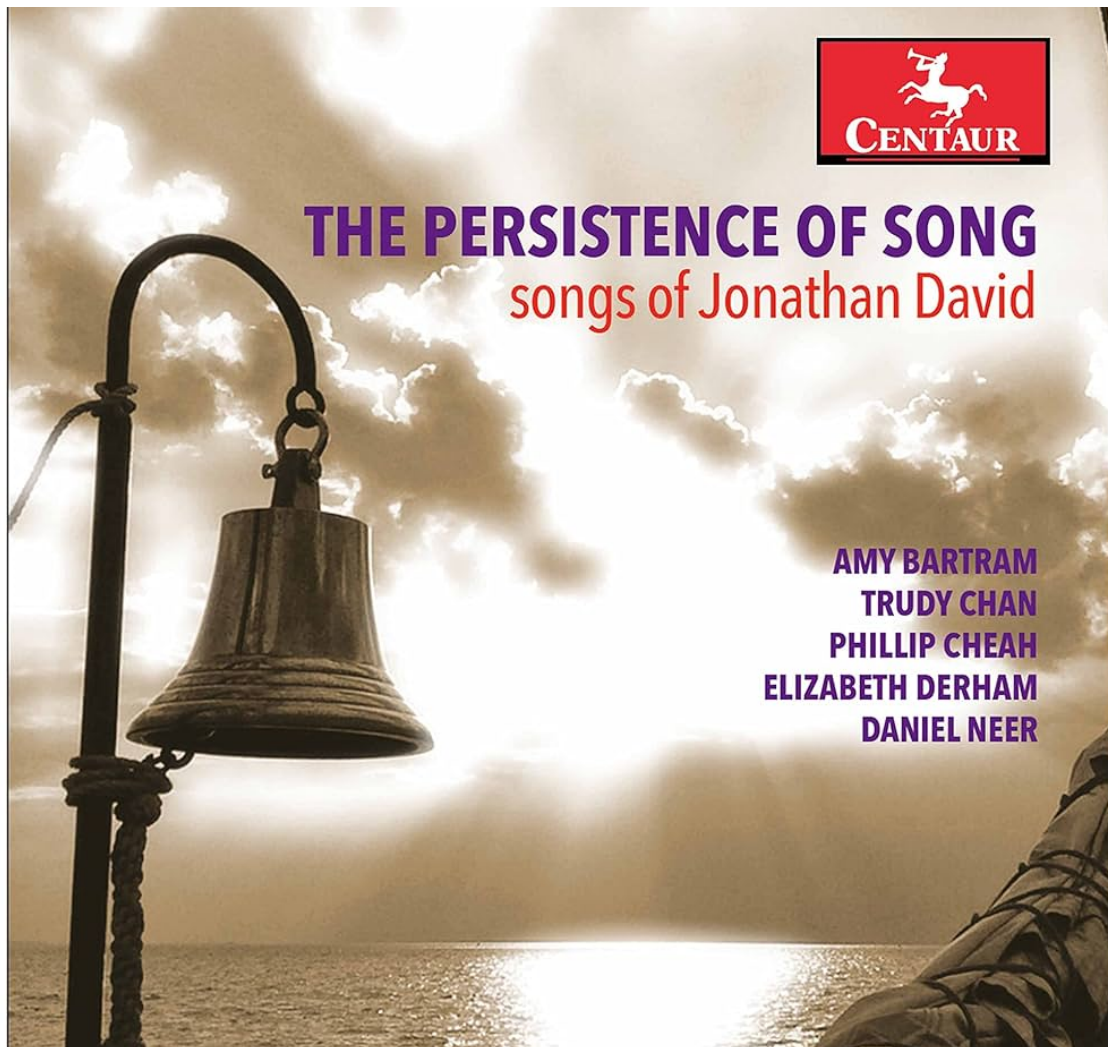
**April 27, 2012** **WORLD PREMIERE**

The Tank Performance Space, NYC | The NARKISSOS

ProjectDaniel Neer (baritone), Alyssa Reit (harp)

**LINKS:** [Gitchee Gumee No. 1 Song of the Father](#)  
[Gitchee Gumee No. 2 Song of the Crewman](#)  
[Gitchee Gumee No. 3 Song of the Son](#)

Gitchee Gumee was recorded August 3-5, 2016  
on *The Persistence of Song* for Centaur Records Records:



# haiku-nyc

song set for voice and piano

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COMPOSER

Ellen Mandel

LYRICIST

Daniel Neer

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**HAIKU-NYC** is a series of twelve autobiographical snapshots of a performer's life in New York City. Each vignette depicts rare episodes of solitude in the midst of the urban landscape, capturing moments of clarity that are at times romantic, cathartic and bittersweet.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

### September 22, 2022

The Phoenix Theatre Ensemble | Carnegie-Farian Room, Nyack Library | Nyack, NY  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Ellen Mandel (piano)

### February 26, 2022

Riley Concert Hall | Battelle Center for Fine Arts | Otterbein University  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Suzanne Newcomb (piano)

### September 16, 2014

**WORLD PREMIERE** of complete song set

Two Sides Sounding | Brooklyn BEAT Festival | Brooklyn Historical Society | NYC  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Mila Henry (piano)

### September 16, 2014

Poetry in Song | Adventures of Literature and Music | Roeliff-Jansen Community Library | Hillsdale, NY  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Ellen Mandel (piano)

### January 31, 2013

Pianos Plus Music Series | New Gallery Concerts | Boston, MA  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Ellen Mandel (piano)

### May 13, 2013

Ellen Mandel and Daniel Neer in Concert | Cornelia Street Café | NYC  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Ellen Mandel (piano)

### February 24, 2013

Andrea Clearfield Salon | Philadelphia, PA  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Ellen Mandel (piano)

## LINKS:

[HAIKU #4 'First job in New York...'](#)

[HAIKU #7 'Darkly rain-soaked day...'](#)

[HAIKU #10 'In a cab, I cry...'](#)



ADVENTURES IN MUSIC AND LITERATURE AT THE ROELIFF JANSEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

# POETRY IN SONG

ELLEN MANDEL & DANIEL NEER IN CONCERT

SATURDAY APRIL 12 / 5PM



What happens when a composer and a singer get their hands on some of the world's greatest poetry? If you asked critically acclaimed performing duo Mandel and Neer, they would more than likely answer with a song. A newly composed art song that is, set to texts by writers such as William Shakespeare, W.B. Yeats, Thomas Hardy, e.e. cummings, Ogden Nash, E. A. Robinson and Seamus Heaney, to name just a few. The luminous clarity of Ellen Mandel's music blends with

the warmth and dexterity of Daniel Neer's baritone, giving a brilliant collaborative voice to new musical settings of the world's most cherished poems. Jazz idioms combine into a uniquely poignant and effective musical style brought to life by master interpreter Daniel Neer. From lyrical to jazzy, dramatic to humorous, a program by Mandel and Neer is a winning musical program that continues to thrill sold-out and standing room audiences from Boston to Philadelphia.



8991 IN 22, COMPALE, NY / ONE MILE SOUTH OF THE Route 22/29  
/ INTERSECTION IN HILLSDALE, NY

This program is made possible, in part, by gifts from the Hudson River Bank & Trust Company Foundation, the Blauvelt Hall Community Foundation, Newark Holiday March and the generous support of our patrons.

# hopper haiku

songs inspired by the paintings of edward hopper

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COMPOSER

Ellen Mandel

LYRICIST

Daniel Neer

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**HOPPER HAIKU**, a new art song project by composer Ellen Mandel and lyricist/performer Daniel Neer, is inspired by the artwork of American realist painter Edward Hopper and seeks to provide an imagined musical voice to the characters and environments depicted in Hopper's iconic works. Set to narrative haiku by lyricist Daniel Neer, Ellen Mandel's jazzy musical settings for piano and voice provide a soundtrack to the urban isolation and gritty landscape of twentieth century America. Accompanied by projected images of Hopper's paintings, and performed by Neer on vocals with Mandel on piano, HOPPER HAIKU seeks to understand the stark intricacies of Hopper's realist style, while exploring the complexities of isolationism and human connection in a post-pandemic world.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

### October 30, 2022

Andrea Clearfield Salon | Philadelphia, PA  
Daniel Neer (vocalist), Ellen Mandel (piano)

### September 23, 2022

Phoenix Festival | Carnegie-Farian Room | Nyack Library | Nyack, NY  
Daniel Neer (vocalist), Ellen Mandel (piano)

### February 26, 2022

Riley Recital Hall | Battelle Fine Arts Center | Otterbein University, Ohio  
Daniel Neer (vocalist), Suzanne Newcomb (piano)

### August 24 - 30, 2020

Vedhana Institute of Music International Symposium 2020 | Bangkok, Thailand (online edition)  
Daniel Neer (vocalist), Ellen Mandel (piano)

### July 8, 2020

Live Broadcast | Thursdays at Noon with Alec Davis  
Daniel Neer (vocalist), Ellen Mandel (piano)

## LINKS/INFO:

**THURSDAYS AT NOON WITH ALEC DAVIS feature**

**Featured at the October 2022 ANDREA CLEARFIELD SZALON**

**Purchase the Sheet Music from Ellen Mandel**

# HOPPER HAIKU

NEW ART SONG  
INSPIRED BY THE  
PAINTINGS OF  
EDWARD HOPPER



MUSIC BY **ELLEN MANDEL**  
LYRICS BY **DANIEL NEER**

PERFORMED BY **DANIEL NEER**, BARITONE, AND  
**SUZANNE NEWCOMB**, PIANO



# HOPPER HAIKU

NEW ART SONG  
INSPIRED BY THE  
PAINTINGS OF  
EDWARD HOPPER



MUSIC BY **ELLEN MANDEL**  
LYRICS BY **DANIEL NEER**

PERFORMED BY **DANIEL NEER**, BARITONE, AND  
**SUZANNE NEWCOMB**, PIANO

Saturday, February 26, 8pm  
Riley Auditorium | Battelle Fine Art Center | Otterbein University  
170 West Park Street, Westerville, Ohio  
**FREE ADMISSION**

HOPPER HAIKU is made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 8PM**  
RILEY AUDITORIUM •  
BATTELLE FINE ARTS CENTER •  
OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY •  
170 WEST PARK STREET,  
WESTERVILLE OHIO  
**FREE ADMISSION**



# metamorphosis

song for voice and harp

COMPOSER

Scott Gendel

LYRICIST

Daniel Neer

Commissioned by Daniel Neer and NeerSighted Productions

**Metamorphosis, (In Memoriam Sarah Goddard Power)**, for tenor voice and harp, was commissioned for 'NARKISSOS', a staged chamber recital for voice, harp and multimedia.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

**April 27 and 29, 2012**      **WORLD PREMIERE**

NARKISSOS | The Tank Performance Space | NYC

Daniel Neer (baritone), Alyssa Reit (harp)

**May 11, 2012**

NARKISSOS | Queens New Music Festival | The Secret Theater | Queens, NY

Daniel Neer (baritone), Alyssa Reit (harp)



**NARKISSOS**

April 27 and 29, 2012  
The Tank Space for  
Performing and Visual Arts

May 11, 2012  
Queens New Music Festival  
presented by Random Access Music

# NARKISSOS

A MULTIMEDIA RECITAL  
featuring vocalist **Daniel Neer**  
and harpist **Alyssa Reit**  
directed by **Ted Gorodetzky**

NARKISSOS | GREEK: Νάρκισσος

Conceived by writer and performer Daniel Neer, this staged recital for voice and harp investigates the mythological figures of Narcissus, Echo, and Nemesis with insightful and nuanced contemporary interpretations of these fabled archetypes.

Through original art song, narration, unconventional staging and audiovisual multimedia, Narkissos explores the multi-layered facets of narcissism with specific focus on self-entitlement, vanity, and the individuals struggle for identity and success in today's culture.

## PERFORMANCES



April 27 and 29, 9:30 pm  
The Tank Space for  
Performance and Visual Arts  
151 W 46th St, 8th Fl | NYC  
thetanknyc.org



May 11, 7:30 pm  
Queens New Music Festival  
presented by Random Access Music  
44-02 23rd St, Studio 104 | LIC  
queensnewmusicfestival.org

## PROGRAMME

Susan Botti | May Swenson  
**The Exchange**

Chandler Carter | Seamus Heaney  
**Personal Helicon** Ⓢ

Benjamin Britten | T.S. Eliot  
**The Death Of Saint Narcissus**

Jason Robert Taylor | William Shakespeare  
**Bare Ruined Choirs (Sonnet 73)** ☆

Scott Gendel | Daniel Neer  
**Metamorphosis** Ⓢ

Robinson McClellan | Daniel Neer  
**The Gyre**

Alyssa Reit | Daniel Neer  
**First Monday In November** Ⓢ

Eleonor Sandresky | William Bronk  
**Someone Comes By**

Jonathan David | Daniel Neer  
**Gitchee Gume** Ⓢ

Lauren Bernofsky | Scott Russell Sanders  
**Among All Creatures** Ⓢ

Martha Sullivan | Yusef Komunyakaa  
**Pride** Ⓢ

Ⓢ WORLD PREMIERE  
☆ AMERICAN PREMIERE

TICKETS | INFORMATION | PROGRAM NOTES | BIOGRAPHIES

# riverview amusement park

song for soprano and piano

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COMPOSER

Sidney Marquez Boquiren

LYRICIST

Daniel Neer

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**Riverview Amusement Park** was written by Sidney Marquez Boquiren and Daniel Neer during the Composer and the Voice residency at American Opera Projects. Originally an aria for an opera project tentatively called *Route 321*, the song was inspired by the photography of William Eggleston.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

May 20, 2012

**WORLD PREMIERE**

Composers and the Voice 'First Glimpse' concert | American Opera Projects | South Oxford Space | Brooklyn, NY

# sandy songs

song cycle for baritone and piano

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SETTING 1:

COMPOSER Chander Carter  
LYRICIST Daniel Neer

Commissioned by Daniel Neer and NeerSighted Productions

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*From Composer Chandler Carter:*

Daniel Neer's five poems, one for each borough, encompass a wide range of experiences and emotions Hurricane Sandy brought upon us New Yorkers: from tragedy and fear, to wistful resignation, to playfulness and, ultimately, hope. My music tries to match his emotional scope and provide some larger perspective and meaning to the whole ordeal, only the latest in the age-old cycle of death, destruction, renewal and rebirth.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

**October 21, 2013**                      **WORLD PREMIERE**

Two Sides Sounding | 'Atmospheric Shift: Music of the Elements" | Shapeshifter Lab | Brooklyn, NY  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Mila Henry (piano)

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SETTING 2:

COMPOSER Linda Kernohan  
LYRICIST Daniel Neer

Commissioned by Daniel Neer and NeerSighted Productions

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## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

**March 13, 2021**                      **WORLD PREMIERE**

Riley Recital Hall | Battelle Fine Arts Center | Otterbein University | Westerville, Ohio |  
Daniel Neer (baritone), Suzanne Newcomb (piano)

**LINKS:**

**[RADIO FEATURE! IN CONVERSATION WITH COMPOSER LINDA KERNOHAN](#)**



# stars

song set for voice and piano

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COMPOSER

Jason Robert Taylor

LYRICIST

Daniel Neer

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**Stars** is a song set in development with Jason Robert Taylor, comprising of four texts by Daniel Neer:

- i. Love at the Planetarium
- ii. Alnilam
- iii. Skylab Falls
- iv. Astronomers

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

**February 8, 2017**

Premiere of Alnilam

The New Song recital series | Scorca Hall | National Opera Center | NYC

Daniel Neer (baritone), Erika Dohi (piano)

**March 13, 2016**

Love at the Planetarium

Riley Recital Hall | Battelle Center for Fine Arts | Otterbein University | Westerville, Ohio

Daniel Neer (baritone), Timothy Huffman (piano)

**July 8, 2015**

Premiere of Love at the Planetarium

Bar Harbor Music Festival | Bar Harbor, Maine

Daniel Neer (baritone), Marijo Newman (piano)

# sunday, early evening

song for bass and piano

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COMPOSER

Sidney Marquez Boquiren

LYRICIST

Daniel Neer

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**Sunday, Early Evening** was written by Sidney Marquez Boquiren and Daniel at the Composer and the Voice residency at American Opera Projects. It was originally an aria for the treatment of an opera entitled *Benevolent Assimilation*, in which a retired marine from the Philippine-American War experiences post-traumatic stress flashbacks while reading a Walt Whitman poem.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

May 20, 2012

### WORLD PREMIERE

Composers and the Voice 'First Glimpse' concert | American Opera Projects | South Oxford Space | Brooklyn, NY  
Justin Hopkins (bass), Mila Henry (piano)

## LINKS:

## WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

# washington square park

song for tenor and piano

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COMPOSER

Sidney Marquez Boquiren

LYRICIST

Daniel Neer

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As a New York who lived in Manhattan on 9/11, I was struck in the months following by the loss of the Twin Towers as part of the city skyline, and the souls that departed with them. That season was also the tumultuous end of a toxic relationship for me, the healing period of which will always be intrinsically linked to the reconstruction of downtown New York and the building of Liberty Tower. Washington Square Park, in the heart of Greenwich Village, always provided a perfect snapshot glimpse of downtown's skyscrapers. My text for **Washington Square Park**, set to music by Sidney Marquez Boquiren, encapsulates the change from one skyline to another, from the past to the future.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

**Tuesday, September 16**      **WORLD PREMIERE**

Two Sides Sounding | Brooklyn BEAT Festival | Brooklyn Historical Society

Brandon Snook (tenor), Mlla Henry (piano)

